REMARKS

Claim 23 was amended above. No new matter has been added. Claims 15 to 22, 24 to 31, and 33, were canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application concerning those canceled claims.

Claims 23 and 32 are now pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this response.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 32 is allowable and that claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten as an independent claim (including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims). Accordingly, claim 23 has been written in independent form. And all claims except for claims 23 and 32 have been canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of all of the above, it is believed that claims 23 and 32 are in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that any outstanding objections/rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Upil 18, 2004

CUSTOMER NO. 26646

Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No. 22,490)

KENYON & KENYON LLP One Broadway New York, New York 10004 (212) 425-7200